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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

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letter of 18 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
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1. Professor P. P. Panaitescu, historian and former Rector of the University of Bucharest, continues to exercise considerable influence and maintains contact with Iron Guard legionnaires, among whom he has great influence. He is penniless and dependent upon friends at the present time.
2. Panaitescu was sent to the Caracal concentration camp by the Groza government after 6 March 1945. While imprisoned there he and other legionnaires belonging to the so-called Horia Sima - Nicolae Patrascu group decided to attempt negotiations with the government to secure the release of all members of the Iron Guard. A memorandum was thereupon drawn up setting forth certain similarities between the Communist and Iron Guard movements, including their repudiation of the bourgeois philosophy, their struggle against the National Peasant and National Liberal Parties in Rumania, and the long terms of imprisonment meted out to the leaders of both movements.
3. After a lapse of several months Panaitescu was brought to the Ministry of Interior and interviewed by Teohary Georgescu.

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[REDACTED] Communist negotiations with Panaitescu began in the summer of 1945.)

The Minister of Interior stated that the government was considering the abolition of the Caracal camp and would consider liberating the legionnaires. All Iron Guardist propaganda would have to be discontinued, however, and contacts with Iuliu Maniu and the National Peasants avoided. If their terms were accepted, the government would release all legionnaires including those who had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

4. An agreement on this basis was reached between the Communists and the legionnaires.

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(Washington Comment: Reports of this agreement was widespread in Rumania in autumn 1945.)

At no time, however, has the government honored the agreement in its entirety. Legionnaires in the Caracal camp were freed, but those serving long prison terms have never been released. When Panaitescu sought an explanation at the Ministry of Interior he was informed that a subversive legionnaire movement under Nicolae Patrascu had continued to exist, causing the authorities considerable anxiety. For this reason the government could not consider the release of Iron Guardists sentenced to long terms.

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5. Patrascu was later arrested by the Siguranta, but was given good treatment and decided to adhere to the agreement with the government previously reached by Panaitescu. His legionnaire circle was dissolved and, as a token of loyalty to the regime, he handed over to the authorities what were purported to be his caches of arms. Panaitescu believes, however, that Patrascu still has considerable quantities of firearms at his disposal.
 6. When questioned about reports that Patrascu is organizing a legionnaire resistance movement, Panaitescu stated that Patrascu was capable of formulating some such plan. In his opinion, Patrascu is operating under orders of Horia Sima or some other legionnaire leader abroad. He believes that Patrascu is organizing an underground movement to be used against the Groza government if that regime retains power. In the somewhat unlikely event that the Groza regime is replaced by a more moderate government, Panaitescu believes that Patrascu would oppose it openly and by underground techniques. Patrascu firmly believes in the possibility of reorganizing the Iron Guard movement along lines earlier developed by Corneliu Codreanu and Horia Sima.
 7. Panaitescu made clear his adherence to the Sima-Patrascu group, although he believes that its present policy is unwise.
- 25X1A [REDACTED] Panaitescu has previously been reported as a leader of the moderate legionnaires.)

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